



# Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DEBORAH R. GILG  
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

## **NORTH PLATTE INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN ARRESTS FOR DRUG DISTRIBUTION AND GUN CHARGES**

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United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg announced that on August 30, 2011, several arrests were made as the result of an approximately six-month investigation into drug distribution in North Platte and the surrounding area. Five current or former residents of the North Platte area were arrested on federal warrants on charges of distribution of methamphetamine and gun charges. The persons arrested on federal warrants are as follows:

On August 30, 2011, an Indictment was unsealed charging Brian Craig Devino, 35, formerly of North Platte, with distributing methamphetamine on three occasions in February and April of 2011. The February distribution is alleged to have resulted in the death of Stacey N. Gonzalez due to a suspected overdose. That charge carries a penalty of not less than 20 years nor more than life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1 million. Following any prison term, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than three years. The other two distribution charges each carry prison terms of up to 20 years and fines of up to \$1 million and terms of supervised release following any prison term of not less than three years. Devino was arrested in Overland Park, Kansas.

On August 30, 2011, an Indictment was unsealed charging Melissa Nicole Hammond, 27, of North Platte, with one count of distribution of five grams or more of methamphetamine in April of 2011, and two counts of distribution of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine in June of 2011. The charge involving five grams or more of methamphetamine carries a penalty of not less than five years nor more than 40 years in prison and fine of up to \$5 million. Following any prison term, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than four years. The remaining two charges each carry prison terms of up to 20 years and fines of up to \$1 million. Following any prison terms, there would be terms of supervised release of not less than three years. Hammond was arrested in North Platte.

Ted A. Lewis, Sr., 52, of North Platte, was charged in an Indictment with two counts of distribution of five grams or more of methamphetamine and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm in April of 2011. The distribution counts each carry prison terms of not less than five years nor more than 40 years and fines of up to \$5 million. Following any prison terms, there would be terms of supervised release of not less than four years. The felon in possession of a firearm charge carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Following any prison term, there would be a term of supervised release of up to three years. Lewis was arrested in Grand Island where he was being held on state charges.

On August 30, 2011, an Indictment was unsealed charging James Fletcher McCuiston, 57, of North Platte, with one count of distribution of 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine in May of 2011. The charge carries a penalty of not less than five years nor more than 40 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5 million. Following any prison term, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than four years.

On August 29, 2011, an Indictment was unsealed charging Shane Allen Reed, 23, of North Platte with being a felon in possession of a firearm in March of 2011. The charge carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Following any term of imprisonment, there would be a term of supervised release of up to three years.

Hammond, Lewis, McCuiston, Rosenberg, and Reed are scheduled for initial appearances in federal court in Lincoln on September 1, 2011. Devino is scheduled for an initial appearance on September 2, 2011.

This case was investigated by the CODE Task Force which is made up of law enforcement agencies in a 22-county area in west-central and southwestern Nebraska and also resulted in the arrests of a number of persons on state drug-related charges. The CODE Task Force includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); North Platte Police Department; Lincoln County Sheriff's Office; Nebraska State Patrol; Dawson County Sheriff's Office; Red Willow County Sheriff's Office; and the Frontier County Sheriff's Office. Additional assistance was provided by the Grand Island Police Department and the Lincoln County and Hall County Attorneys' Offices.

Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun of the FBI stated, "This investigation and subsequent indictments reflect the exceptional results which can be obtained through the collaborative efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement as well as the respective prosecutors' offices. The CODE Task Force will continue to pursue those involved in the illegal drug trade."

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